

## SATAN'S EX-WIFE DIES

The woman who claimed to have risen to the top ranks of witchcraft and satanism — to the point of being married to Satan himself — is dead.

Edna Elaine Knost died Feb. 19, 2005. She was 59.

Knost gained a brief measure of notoriety in some circles after teaming with Ruth Bailey — an Indiana physician turned spiritual warfare fanatic. Knost and Bailey claimed to have fought the forces of darkness by leading more than a thousand people in their small Indiana community out of hard-core satanism and into Christianity during a two-year span. Eventually, the pair said, satanists drove them from the region. Facts reveal a less sinister reason for their departure. In the fall of 1983, legal and medical officials in the area began to mount a major investigation of Bailey's medical practices, which led to her losing her license.

Knost and Bailey fled to California where they peddled their wild tales to tract publisher Jack Chick. Chick, always on the lookout for bizarre stories, previously had published the fabrications of John Todd and Alberto Rivera. Chick collected and printed Bailey and Knost's accounts in two full-length books, *He Came to Set the Captives Free* (1986) and *Prepare for War* (1987), which were published with Rebecca Brown, M.D., as the author. Bailey, after arriving in California, had her name legally changed to Rebecca Brown.

In Brown's books, Knost, identified only as "Elaine," reported that as an infant her mother unknowingly sold her to Satan. She claimed that, as a teenager, she was inducted into Satan's service at a "witch camp." She also said that at a national competition of witches, she surpassed all her colleagues and was named top witch. This position, she maintained, allowed her to become "Satan's representative on an international level," traveling the world, meeting with heads of state and foreign dignitaries to negotiate the sale of arms. Knost, around 1980, came in contact with Bailey as the result of a hospital stay and was purportedly converted to Christianity.

As the 1980s came to a close, Knost dropped out of sight. According to Brown's web site, "For several years prior to her death Elaine was in very poor health and lived quietly. She was not in a public ministry of any sort." Brown's association with Knost and publisher Jack Chick concluded around the time she married Daniel Yoder in December 1989. Yoder, like Knost, made incredible biographical claims and told preposterous tales.

In 1989, following numerous inquiries, PFO began a major study of the theology and claims which Brown and Knost were making for themselves. Several articles were published in various editions of this journal, with the prominent reports being collected and published in booklet form under the title *Drugs, Demons and Delusions*.

—MKG

## MEYER HOMES UP FOR SALE

Two of the five palatial homes owned by Joyce Meyer Ministries are reported to be up for sale. The asking price for both homes is more than \$2.5 million.

Meyer and her husband, Dave, live in one of the five residences in the compound. The other four are occupied by the Meyers' married children and their spouses. The two homes up for sale are used by her children and flank the house where the Meyers live.

Meyer's ministry pays all expenses for the homes, including property taxes, utilities, landscaping, and renovations. Meyer and her children live in the homes free of charge as employees of the ministry. Mark Sutherland, spokesman for Meyer's ministry, indicated that the other three homes may be placed on the market as well. According to a report in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, "Joyce Meyer, her husband, and their four children all serve on the board of directors that makes financial decisions for the ministry."

In late 2003, the St. Louis newspaper featured a four-part report on Meyer, calling attention to her extravagant personal lifestyle at the expense of ministry finances. As a result, Wall Watchers, a non-profit organization watchdog group, called upon the Internal Revenue Service to investigate Meyer and her family.

According to Rusty Leonard, founder of the North Carolina-based Wall Watchers, "The sale of those houses is an indication that either the IRS is breathing down Joyce Meyer's neck or her lawyers are telling her to do something before the IRS does. The fact that they have huge homes owned by the ministry is very questionable."

The IRS refused comment on whether it was conducting a specific investigation of Meyer or her ministry. According to federal law, funds acquired from the sale of the homes must be returned to the ministry.

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Christology of a born-again Jesus who suffered in hell, denies the Christ of the Bible and is rank heresy. Using Christian words and defining them in non-Christian ways is the essence of deception and cultism.

There are many reasons we need organizations such as PFO. We need to help one another spot deception. We need to help one another be more discerning overall.

Pray for PFO — support it with your prayers and gifts. It is a ministry that is desperately needed as the darkness and deception deepens. There are men who want to be thought of as evangelical who sit on the boards of organizations of New Age gurus, and who endorse New Age teachers and a Catholic contemplative web site. Someone needs to sound the alarm on the fence-straddling.

“Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you have learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple” (Romans 16:17-18, NKJV).

—GRF

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## NEWS UPDATES

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Meyer’s organization indicates that the homes were originally purchased as investments for the ministry. “The increase in property values makes it hard not to sell,” Sutherland told the *Post-Dispatch*.

In a report last April, the *Post-Dispatch* revealed that the “ministry’s board of trustees, which is led by Joyce Meyer, agreed to pay her a \$900,000 annual salary in 2002 and 2003. The board agreed to give her husband, Dave Meyer, the board’s vice president, an annual salary of \$450,000 in each of those same two years.”

As a result of the newspaper’s 2003 reports, Meyer, beginning in 2004, reduced her salary to \$250,000, but still receives additional perks, including a “portion of the \$3 million a year in royalties earned from books and tapes.” Weeks after the *Post-Dispatch*’s initial reports divulged her expensive lifestyle, the televangelist told listeners at a local St. Louis-area conference that the news articles were a “satanic plot.”

—MKG

## WHO IS THIS NEW POPE?

On April 19, 2005, German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was elected Pope of the Roman Catholic Church. In his opening statement, he acknowledged his need for help from Jesus, Mary, and the Saints.

The new pontiff is certainly well known in the Vatican, but not to the general public. Ratzinger, the oldest of the candidates at 78, became a Cardinal in 1977 and was appointed guardian of the church’s doctrinal orthodoxy in 1981. He is an old-line Catholic and was a trusted friend of former Pope John Paul II. John Paul was the velvet glove, but Ratzinger was the clenched fist inside. He was one of the key men John Paul relied on to silence dissident theologians and reiterate church teaching. There is a reason he is referred to as the Vatican’s enforcer and was responsible for the excommunication of dissidents.

In electing Ratzinger, the College of Cardinals has signaled to Catholics worldwide that it is business as usual. The new Pope is definitely conservative and a traditionalist. News reports speak of Ratzinger’s inflexible reputation. One of the major issues, celibate clergy, will continue to be practiced and debated. Ratzinger has always been a tough opponent of practicing homosexuals and the ordination of women. Women’s rights probably will not be high on his agenda, either. He holds all the dogmas and traditions of Rome with deep commitment.

Ratzinger has selected the name Pope Benedict XVI. Benedict XV was the Pope of the First World War, reigning from 1914-1922. He is best known for canonizing Joan of Arc as a Saint. He spoke unrealistically of global peace and reconciliation between nations, but was marginalized and ignored by the world powers at the time. The powers of that day saw him as a nothing but a provincial potentate. Perhaps Ratzinger wishes to signal the world that he is a man of peace and for peace among all nations. Perhaps he wishes to give his papacy an aura of global concern. Perhaps he can be the new Benedict that the world will heed. The choice of the name is certainly not arbitrary. It is all about image.

Already, conservatives and liberals within Catholicism are taking sides. Ratzinger most likely will have a stormy and controversial papacy with little internal change for some years. There is little chance that anything in Rome will tilt back toward Scripture. Ratzinger undoubtedly will tenaciously uphold dogma, tradition, and papal infallibility. Publicly, Ratzinger will speak of Christians uniting, but in Ratzinger’s mind Christian unity involves all coming under the papal banner.

As Ratzinger reaffirms Catholic traditions, Bible-believing Christians could benefit. The cafeteria theology of American Catholics confuses and misleads even them. As the differences between Roman Catholicism and orthodox Christianity become clearer, witnessing could become easier. If Ratzinger makes Catholicism more like pre-Vatican II Catholicism — which he would like to — it surely will prompt more Catholics to questioning their beliefs and perhaps make them more receptive to Bible witness.

—GRF